

prices being quoted in Lira. 20,000 *anything* for a pair of panties? ! ?

Constable Plod, or whatever the Swahili equivalent is, arrived from Archer's Post at two in the morning, rolled his eyes, proclaimed the matter to be way beyond his jurisdiction, and went off to his girl friend among the hotel staff — presumably the real reason why he had bothered to come at all, since boyfriends were not allowed in camp.

Early next morning the heavy artillery from Nanyuki rolled in, two whole Land Rovers full. The staff were duly rounded up and terrorised, the grounds were combed, we were interviewed, and the Land Rovers raced about, scaring the gentle giraffes senseless. Just after breakfast the inspector in charge bore down on us and saluted smartly: It had been two men; they had cut the perimeter fence of the camp; they had loaded the loot in two sacks; they had gone due East; they would doubtless be caught since it was a hike of 30 km; he would report back at regular intervals. We announced our intention of going game watching. He assured us we would be found if there were interested developments.

While watching two small *dik-dik* antelopes perform the most amazing ritual fight a Land Rover rolled up with an item of silk underwear: "Sorry, Italian lady", and off they went in a cloud of dust. There had been a hole in one of the sacks and the thieves left a trail of almost a million Lira worth of Italian underwear. We got back a bit of our *bric-à-brac*, but no valuables, and none of the 20 exposed films. Still, we do have the pleasure of wondering what the elephants, zebras, giraffes, lions and oryx made of it all. — TORBEN B. LARSEN, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL.

***Blastobasis phycidella* (Zeller) and other Lepidoptera in Guernsey**

A stay on this Channel Island from 12th to 19th June 1990 yielded many species of interest. The macrolepidoptera of the island are mostly well known, but less work has been done on the micros.

The greatest surprise was *Blastobasis phycidella* (Zell.) of which some 20 specimens were noted on the wooded south facing cliffs of the island. They could be knocked out of hedges and overhanging plants by day and were also taken more commonly by night m.v., light. The species is mainly of southern European distribution so its appearance so far north was not expected. W. Fassnidge added the species to the British list when he found four specimens on the wall of a warehouse in Southampton docks in 1930. Like other members of the genus the larva is thought to feed on decaying wood and similar detritus. Our specimens differ superficially from those taken in Spain, for example, by having more pronounced fuscous streaks on the forewings; however, the determination was confirmed by Dr Adamski, an authority on this group. An illustration of the adult is expected to be published in the report of the 1990 Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society in the *Journal of British Entomology & Natural History*.

In the same location as *B. phycidella* we were delighted also to take two very fresh specimens of the macrolepidopteron *Polyphaenis sericata* (Esp.), the date being about a month earlier than one would expect. This species has been known to be resident in Guernsey since 1889 and there is no firm evidence to suggest it is migratory, despite its inclusion in the 1989 list of migrants published in this journal.

A total of 40 species of microlepidoptera were taken which do not appear to have been recorded previously from the island. A box of specimens taken by R.A. Austin was shown us for identification which contained four of these species which he had previously taken, together with six others additional to the island list. We comment only on the more interesting additions.

Luffia ferchaultella (Steph.) cases were found at Saints Bay and specimens bred. The cases were considerably smaller than those of *L. lapidella* (Goeze) collected at Pleinmont. From the latter only one male was bred among many females, indicating that even though this species produces the occasional male, the females of the race are generally able to manage quite well without him! The high density of cases locally also suggests parthenogenesis.

Nemapogon ruricolella (Staint.) was present on the south coast as well as *N. cloacella* (Haw.).

Oinophila v-flava (Haw.) was found at Moulin Huet, we presume the species lives in the open in the same way as it does in the Isles of Scilly.

Biselachista scirpi (Staint.) mines were found near Vale Pond where there remains a small amount of brackish water.

Scrobipalpa instabilella (Dougl.) in several localities was something of a surprise (although not new) in view of the apparent absence of any *Halimione* on which the larvae might feed.

Mompha divisella (H.-S.) was a pleasant surprise, found commonly in stems of *Epilobium montanum* growing in urban wasteland — we might not have found this except for caught specimens in the box belonging to R.A. Austin.

Two specimens of *Phycitodes nimbella* (Dup.) were only determined long afterwards, confirmed by genitalia examination. They are slightly larger and greyer than local specimens of *P. saxicola* (Vaughan). Goater (1986) refers to records from Jersey so this is no great surprise, but pleasing all the same.

Our thanks are due to Peter Costen and Rich Austin for their help, and especially to Mr and Mrs Tim Peet for much hospitality and assistance. Reference: Goater, B. (1986) *British Pyralid Moths*. — D.J.L. AGASSIZ, The Glebe House, Brewers End, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford CM22 6QH. J.R. LANGMAID, Wilverley, 1 Dorrita Close, Southsea, Hants PO4 0NY.